

Improving Parent Involvement in GDL and Driver Education and Training



David Huff

DETA Chairman Elect
Montana Traffic Education Director

2008 Lifesavers Conference
Portland, Oregon



Sponsored Event



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Driver Education and
Training Administrators

Focus

- Driver Education and Training
- Graduated Driver Licensing
- Parent/Guardian Supervision



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Driver Education and
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Perspective

- Educator
- State Program Manager
- Driver Education and Training Chairman Elect



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What Do I Mean by Driver Education?

- Education is inclusive
 - Knowledge and skill
 - Educate people
- Training is for a specific skill
 - Train animals
- My error – H.S. community separates education from training



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Driver Education and Science

- Traditional driver education does not “work”
 - Does not result in long term crash reduction
- Unfortunate and harmful message
 - Heard by policy makers and researchers, but not audience who needed to hear – parents
 - Policy, funding and research support collapsed
 - Education methods stopped evolving



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A Request, Promise & Comment

- Please refrain from summarizing driving education research in presentations and reports as “doesn’t work”
 - This does not clearly communicate the facts
- I will do my best to always clarify whether I’m talking about education or training.
- If driver education & training doesn’t work, then we don’t have it right



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Two Important Questions

- What would the highway safety community look like without professional driver education and training efforts?
 - NHTSA's Texas & Oregon study are clues
- What role can driver education and training provide to improve teen driver safety?



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What Do We Know About GDL?

- It Works - results in lower crash rates
 - Required time and supervised-practice permit
 - Intermediate/restricted license
 - Passengers
 - Nighttime
 - Other (effectiveness pending, NSC 2007)
 - Full-Privilege License



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What are GDL Challenges?

- Consistent Enforcement – teens get away with cheating
- Appropriate Adjudication - court consequences often lacking
- Variability in Laws – fail to meet best practices
- Knowledgeable, Effective Parental Supervision – often not prepared



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Parents and Driver Education and Training

- Historically parents have relied on Driver Ed
- Problem: Driver Education Alone is not Sufficient
 - Why?
 - Safe driving requires knowledge and skill
 - Skill sets require time and practice/experience



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Parents and Driver Education and Training

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- Problem: Driver Education Alone is not Sufficient
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What Do We Know About Parents?

- Parental influence is significant to their teen
- Parents becoming more involved in teen driving improves compliance with GDL (Checkpoints)
- Experts recommend helping parents to become even more involved with teen's driving



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Clarifying Parent Roles

- Understand that education and training without significant practice does not a safe driver create
- Supervisor of practice, not teacher
- Provide safe environment for practice
 - Tools to supervise effectively
- Know & understand GDL best practices
- Tools to reinforce GDL



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Unify Strengths to Overcome Weaknesses

- GDL – Strength
 - Lower Crashes
- GDL – Weaknesses
 - Needs Consistent Enforce
 - Needs Good Adjudication
 - Laws miss the best
 - Needs Quality Supervision
- Parent – Strength, if equipped has power to
 - Enforce
 - Adjudicate
 - Adhere to best practice
 - Provide quality supervision
- Parent – Weakness, often
 - Uninformed
 - Ill Equipped

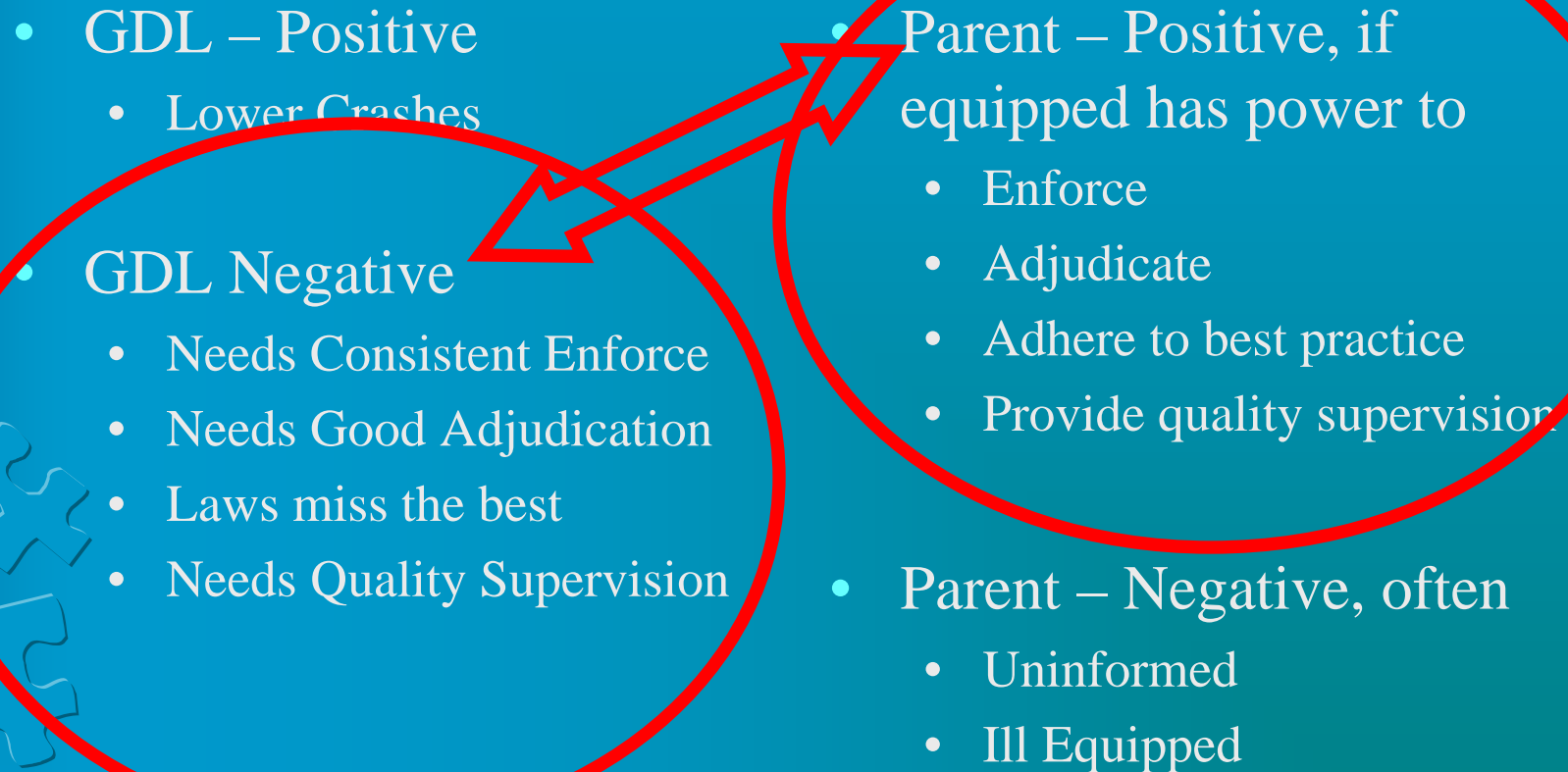


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Unify So Strengths Overcome Weaknesses

- GDL – Positive
 - Lower Crashes
 - GDL Negative
 - Needs Consistent Enforce
 - Needs Good Adjudication
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 - Needs Quality Supervision
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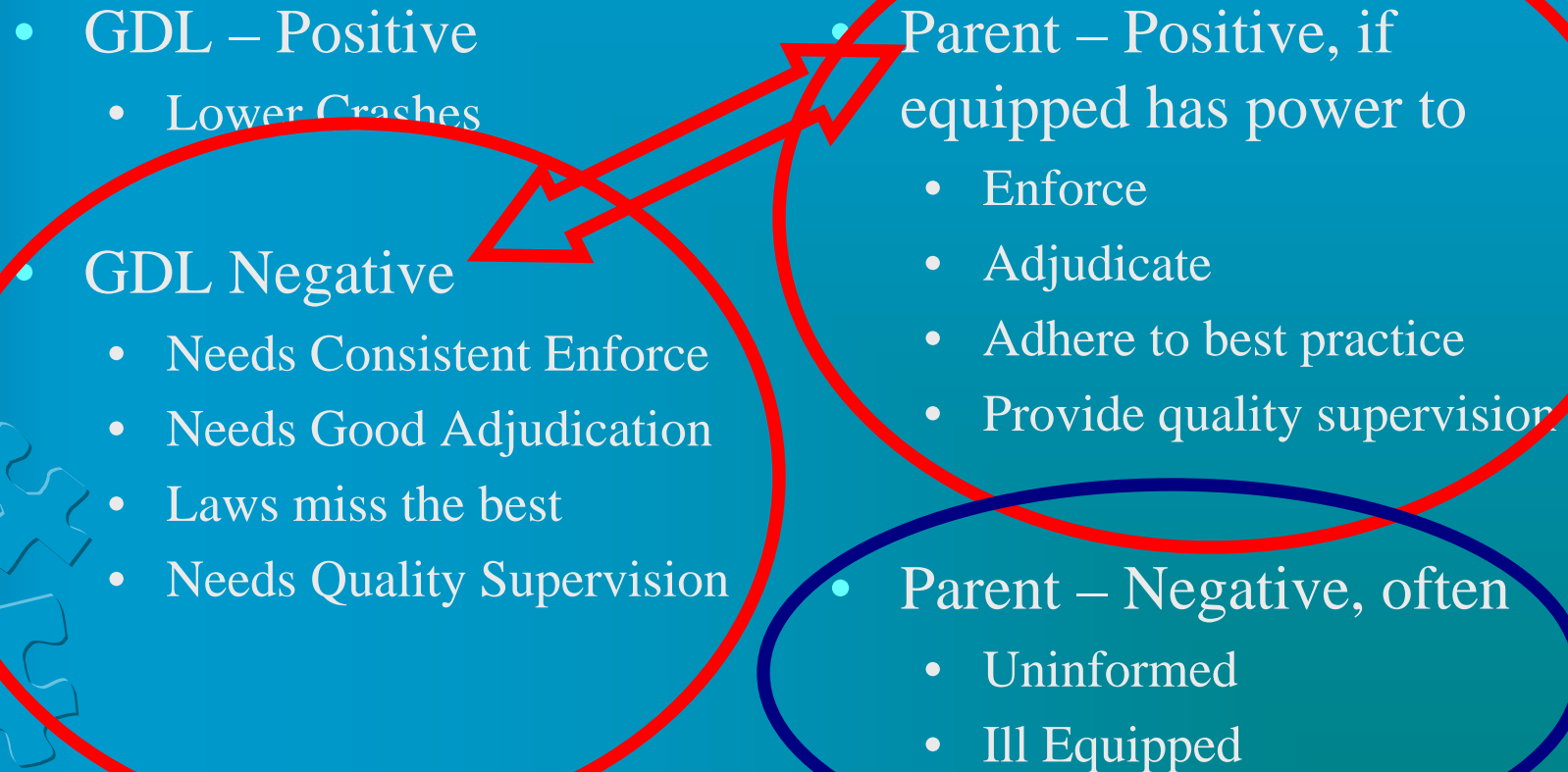


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How Do We Connect and Equip Parents?

- Driver Education and Training
 - Personnel
 - Educational expertise
 - Program network
 - Opportunity
 - Parental willingness to participate



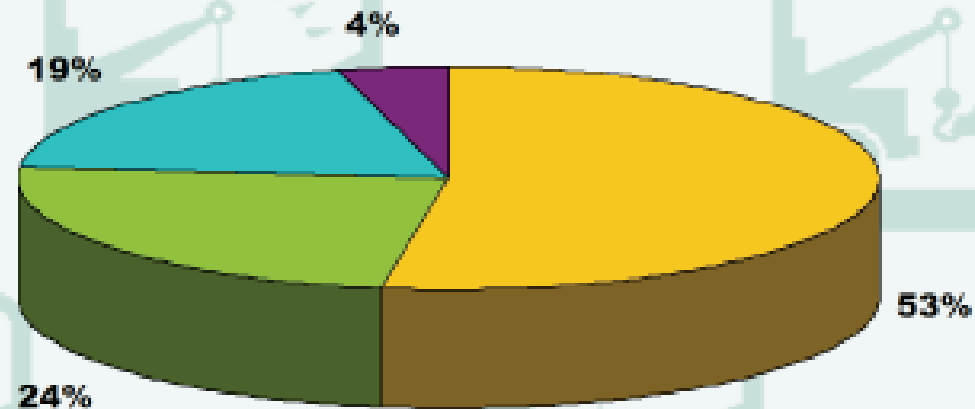
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Should parents be required to be involved in driver's ed?

■ Yes, definitely ■ Yes, if convenient
■ Maybe, not sure ■ No they should not



UNC CHARLOTTE



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health

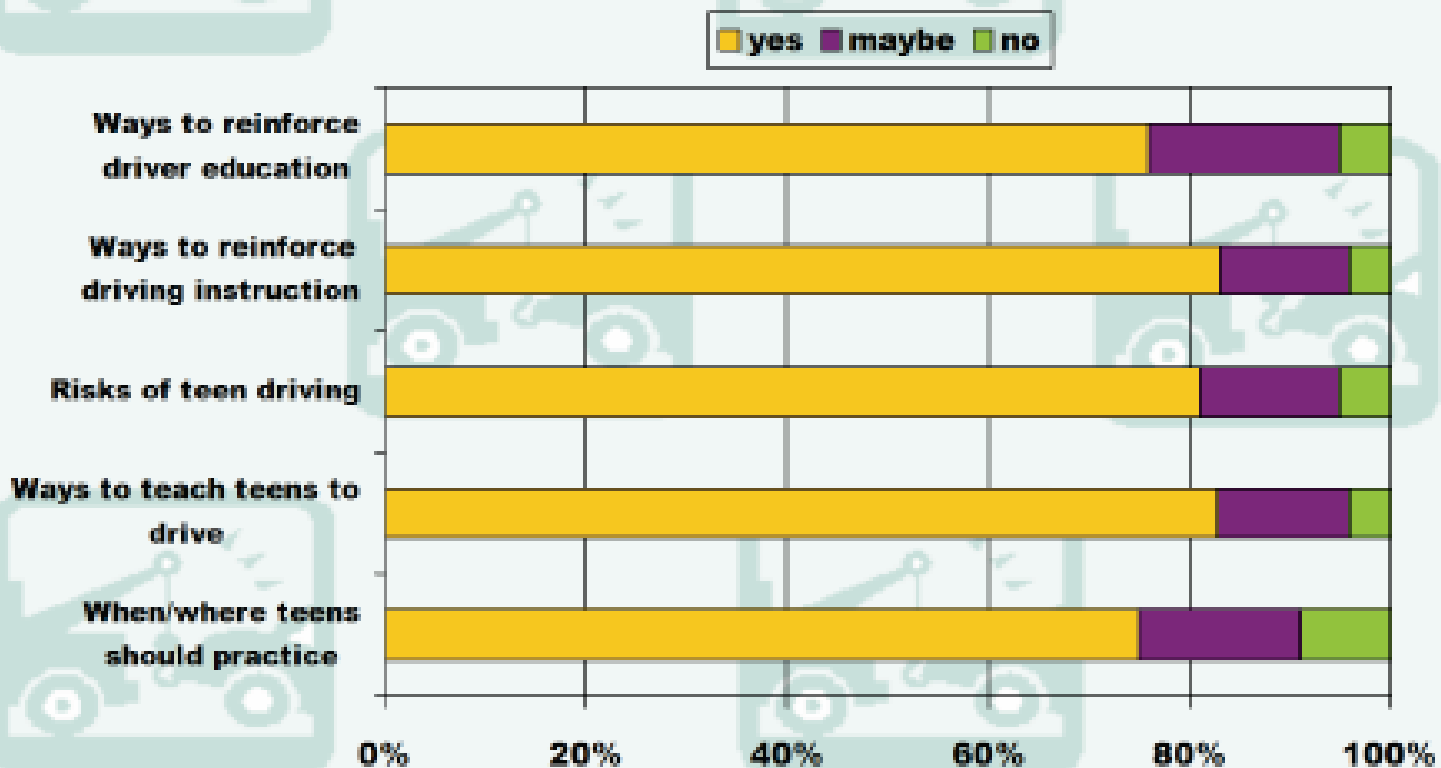


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Would you want information on any of the following?



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How Are States Involving Parents In Driver Education and Training

Seven States and One Canadian Province Reporting

- Parent Night
 - 2 require; 2 recommend
- Wrap-Up Meeting
 - 1 recommend
- Practice Driving
 - 4 require



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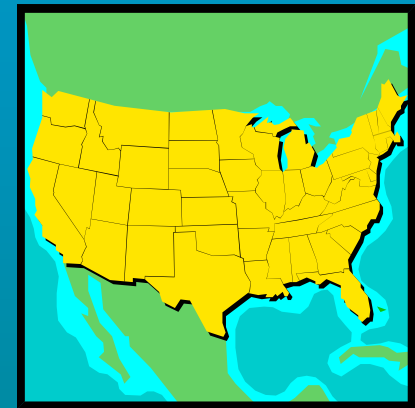


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How Are States Involving Parents In Driver Education and Training

Seven States and One Canadian Province Reporting

- Inform about GDL
 - 1 require; 2 recommend
- Other measures
 - Judicial license ceremony
 - Parents sign teen driver ed evaluation
 - Six month free cell phone voucher to parent for teen completing driver ed (Manitoba)



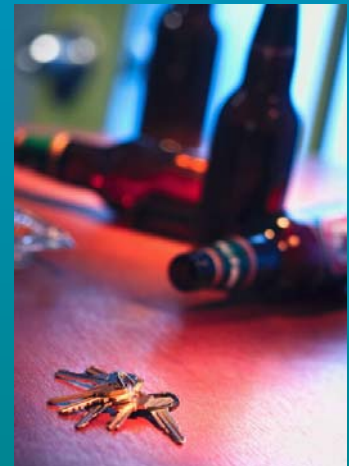
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Montana's Next Step

- Keep Encouraging Young-Driver Safety
 - K.E.Y.S. Project – a variation on Checkpoints
- Involve Parents in Homework in Driver Ed
 - At 3 or 4 significant places
 - Help parents understand the challenge
 - Inform about GDL
 - Supervision and enforcement tools
 - Tool to assess their teen's readiness to drive with tailored recommendations for practice



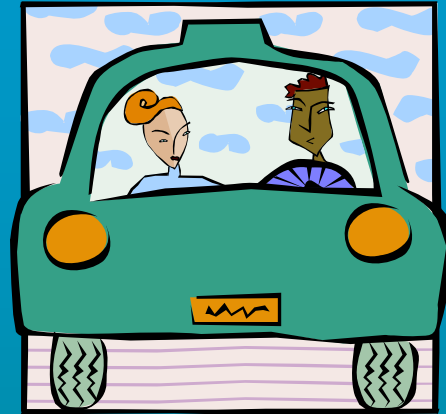
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Possible United Model For Licensing

- Training
- Education
- Parent/Guarding Supervision
- Graduated Driver License
= Graduated Trainuvision
- Phased Parent/teen education-train-practice-supervise-permit-license process



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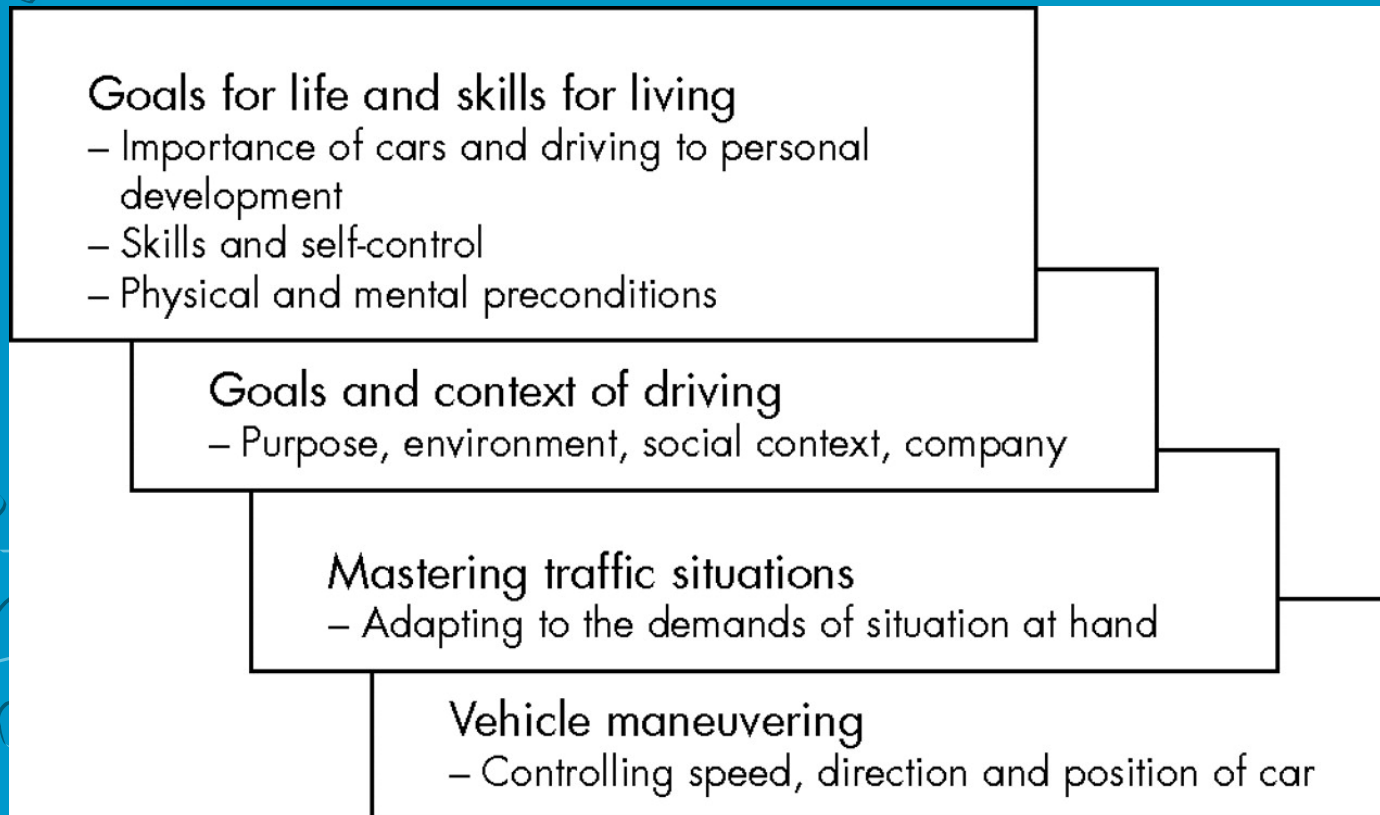


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Graduated Trainuvision Model

	Year One	Year Two
Educate Parent ** * * *	* *	*
Teen ***** * * *	* * * *	* * * *
Train (Teen BTW with Professional) ****	**	* *
Supervise (Parent supervises teen) *****	*****	*****
Permit		Intermediate/restricted license

Figure 1 Hierarchical levels of driver behavior (adapted from Keskinen8)



Berg, H-Y Inj Prev 2006;12:i15-i18

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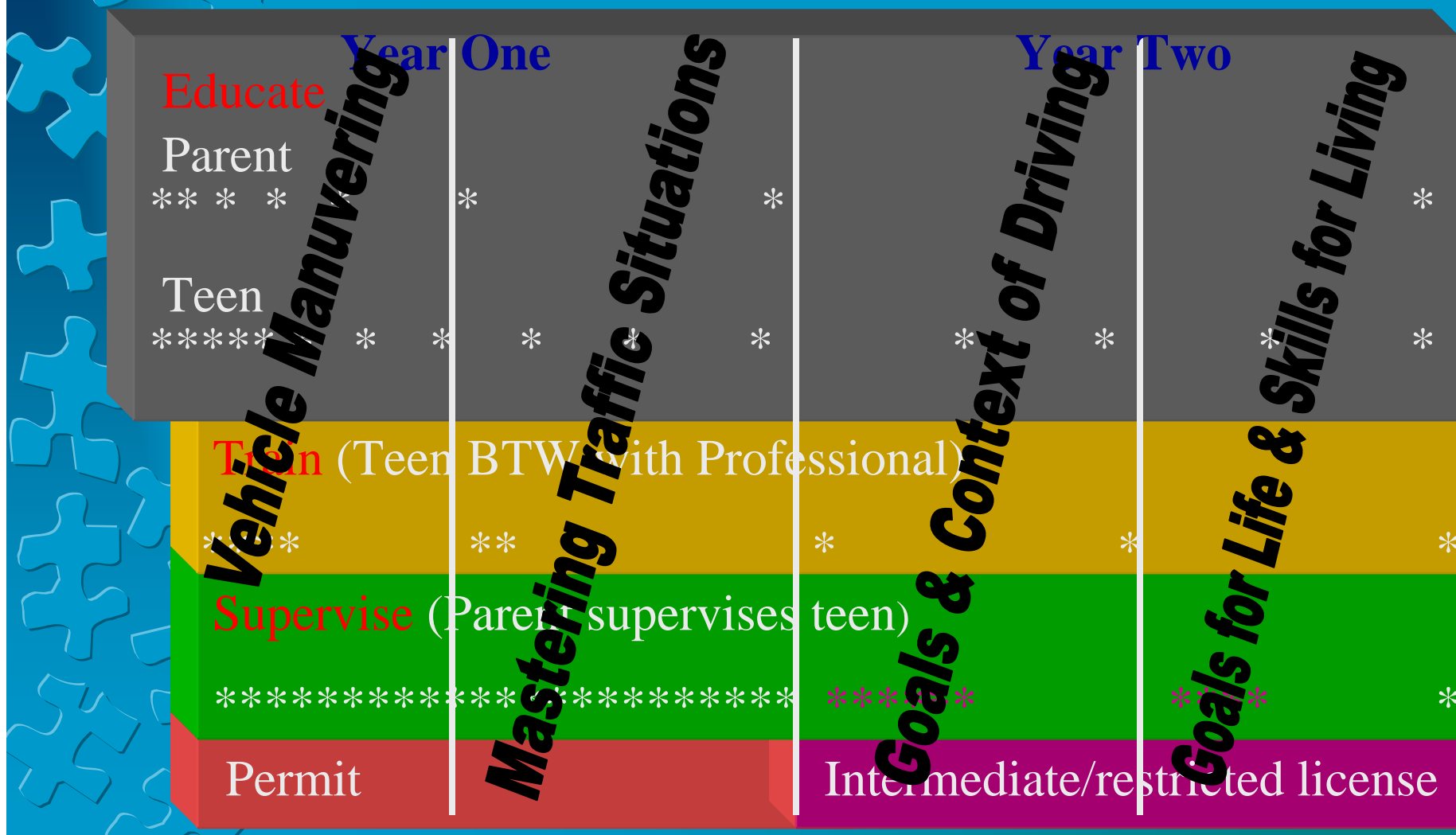
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Graduated Trainuvision Model



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Summary

- Learning to drive is a process that can't be shortened without negative results (GDL)
- Learning process must be comprehensive knowledge and skill based – hierarchy
- The family unit has the power and opportunity to ensure the process is thorough and complete
- We must equip the parent/guardians and the teen
- Driver Education & Training can be retooled to meet this need and is already moving in this direction



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What Parents Can Do Now

- Seek professional instruction & help
- Know the GDL best practices & laws
- Supervise their teen's driving & reinforce the professional instruction
- Keep a log of practice with notes
- Set family driving rules & limits
- Impose consequences for violations



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We Can Do This



Thank You

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